

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Monday, December 11, 2000

The House met at 5 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 11, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable EDWARD A. PEASE to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

In the time of our testing, prove us,
O Lord, Your faith-filled people.

In the day of justice, guide us with
restraint and wisdom.

In the end, it is Your judgment of us
all and how we react to our circumstances that we must fear.

When we are overwhelmed with confusion or when we are seared by harsh words, calm the soul of this Nation.

Speak to us as once You spoke to Isaiah.

"Who created you and formed you?

"Fear not for I have redeemed you;

"I have called you by name; you are mine.

"When you pass through the water, I will be with you;

"in the rivers you shall not drown.

"When you walk through the fire, you shall not be burned;

"the flames shall not consume you.

"For I am the Lord, your God, the Holy One of Israel, your savior."

This we believe now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MOAKLEY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain one-minute at the end of business today.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 129, FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2001

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 670 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 670

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 129) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2001, and for other purposes. The joint resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MOAKLEY) pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 670 is a closed rule providing for consideration of House Joint Resolution 129, which makes further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2001 through December 15.

H. Res. 670 provides for 1 hour of debate on the joint resolution equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of this joint resolution.

Finally, the rule provides one motion to recommit, as is the right of the minority.

Mr. Speaker, because the President refuses to sign continuing resolutions

of any longer duration, the joint resolution covered by this rule simply extends the provisions of our current continuing resolution by 4 days.

Mr. Speaker, after months of hard work, the House has just a few issues left to resolve. Like my Republican colleagues, I am determined to pass fair and fiscally responsible appropriations bills, and I will stay here as long as it takes to achieve this goal for the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the President will join us in our good-faith efforts to negotiate a fair, bipartisan solution to the disagreements still before us. I am hopeful that the fair, clean continuing resolution covered by this rule will give us the time we need to complete the appropriations process in a thoughtful and judicious manner.

The rule was unanimously approved by the Committee on Rules, and I urge my colleagues to support it so that we may proceed with general debate and consideration of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOAKLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague and my friend the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) for yielding me the customary time.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us is the 20th continuing resolution this year. That means that 20 times we have had to pass stop-gap spending measures, these measures to keep the Federal Government running, despite my Republican colleagues' inability to finish the appropriations bills on time.

Mr. Speaker, it is about time my Republican colleagues finished.

The fiscal year began October 1, which means that Congress was to have finished the 13 appropriations bills and have them signed into law by that day some 2½ months ago.

Instead, Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues continue to make virtually no progress on the unfinished appropriations bills and, instead, pass continuing resolution after continuing resolution.

But it really does not have to be that way, Mr. Speaker. Republican and Democratic appropriators and the President have reached bipartisan agreement. That agreement could have made record increases in educational funding, would have helped local school districts hire 12,000 more teachers to reduce class size, it would have provided money to repair thousands of schools that are falling apart, it would